



## Water Supply Outlook

Our water supply situation is very good. Winter snowpack accumulation has begun in the Cedar and Tolt basins, and snow water equivalent (SWE) measurements currently indicate a trace in the Cedar, and an average of 1.1 inches SWE in the Tolt. Additional snow accumulation is forecast for the week ahead. Chester Morse Lake's water surface elevation decreased approximately 1.0 feet over the week, and is currently at 1550.1 feet. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at 1750.7 feet, having risen about 1.8 feet over the week. Streamflows below SPU facilities on the Cedar and South Fork Tolt rivers will continue to be held above guaranteed normal minimum flow levels for the week ahead.

Water consumption for the 7-day period ending October 24 averaged 115 mgd. That average is somewhat less than the 117 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and also less than the average of 133 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.



Cedar River Watershed

Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon are spawning in the Cedar. Chinook and coho are also spawning in the Tolt. This year's return of chinook salmon to the Cedar appears to be substantially stronger than pre-season projections and will likely be the largest return in over a decade. Chinook typically continue to spawn until mid-November. Sockeye spawning usually peaks in late October and continues into January. Coho salmon are starting to spawn in both systems with peak spawning activity expected in November and December. Adult summer-run steelhead continue to hold in the Tolt system. Many of these fish hold in the upper reaches of the South Fork Tolt River below the dam where they will spawn next winter and spring. The Landsburg fish ladder is in full operation, a total of 50 chinook and 6 coho have been passed upstream so far this year. The Cedar River sockeye hatchery program has achieved approximately 50 percent of the broodstock collection goal for the year. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife staff will strive to continue capturing fish in the broodstock collection facility at River Mile 6.5 through mid-November.



## Asset Management

### SPU Planning for the Future

**Definition: Asset Management is the meeting of agreed customer and environmental service levels at the lowest life cycle costs.**

Many of the pipes and pumps throughout the world and particularly in the United States were

constructed in the post war eras and are in need of repair, replacement or rehabilitation. This raises real issues about costs and levels of service to customers. Asset management, which has developed over the last decade, is providing answers to these issues.

SPU Director Chuck Clarke has set Asset Management as a focal point for the organization. "For the City of Seattle and its customers, asset management is a way of increasing SPU productivity thereby justifying to both citizens and elected officials SPU's cost effectiveness in delivering services. This is the only way to protect the levels of resources granted to us on behalf of our ratepayers," said Clarke.

Typically, organizations focus only on capital costs when the total costs of owning an asset also includes operations and maintenance costs, retirement costs and the depreciation of an asset over its life (the cost of replacing it).

In this column each month we will feature a summary of an Asset Management Success story from our Assets Management website. This month's success story is the Cedar River Watershed Bridge Replacement Project. (see insert)



## Water Quality Technical Forum Report

### Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data from September 2004

There were no positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during September 2004. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.5

to 1.2 mg/L during September, with an overall average of 0.8 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.3 mg/L.

### Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is still meeting weekly. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the most recent Cedar distribution sample was 1.8, with a slight chlorinous taste. Overall, ozone at the new Cedar Water Treatment Facility has been very effective at reducing the FRA from Lake Youngs. The Tolt supply was 1.4 with a chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at [moya.joubert@seattle.gov](mailto:moya.joubert@seattle.gov).

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## Conservation Technical Forum Summary

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>

### YOUTH EDUCATION/MARKETING

#### Issaquah Salmon Days Draws Huge Numbers to SWP Booth

Beautiful summer-like weather brought throngs of people to Issaquah October 2 & 3 for the annual Issaquah Salmon Days. The Saving Water Partnership partnered with King County, the City of Issaquah and the Cascade Water Alliance to host the Sustainable Living booth. Hundreds of people from Seattle, the East Side and northwest region visited the booth each

day. Special appearances by Bert the Salmon and Wayne Drop (the mascot for the Water Conservation Coalition of Puget Sound) were huge hits with children who swarmed and clamored for hugs and high-fives. The booth offered hands-on displays and information about water conservation, how our drinking water is distributed throughout the region, surface water quality, sustainable building materials and energy conservation. Issaquah Salmon Days has grown to become the third largest FREE event in the Northwest with annual attendance estimates at between 200,000 –300,000 visitors.

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## **RESIDENTIAL INDOOR Residential Indoor Message Campaign Planned for Winter**

Plans are underway for a 'wash full loads' messaging campaign for November 2004 - March 2005. The first step will be to conduct a baseline survey and two focus groups in October and early November, before the campaign. The survey and focus groups will help us craft messages that will motivate people to change to more water-efficient behaviors. The campaign will begin with a press release and articles in utility newsletters in November and December, and advertising in purveyor newspapers beginning in January. In addition, two pilot sites will be selected to receive more intensive messaging. Comparing the results from the pilot sites with results from the service territory as a whole will tell us whether intensive, local campaigns are an effective strategy for changing residential indoor water use behavior.

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## **RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE Encouraging Fall Planting and Future Waterwise Gardens**

While most gardeners are jumping to buy plants in spring, the best time to plant is in the fall. To encourage this message, we placed a full-page ad in the Northwest Pacific Magazine on October 3rd with the headline of "Pull on your galoshes and plant for dry summers ahead." This ad is designed to educate gardeners on why fall is the best time to plant and to use the following resources with our dry summers in mind. Natural Lawn & Garden guides available through the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline; savingwater.org website and our upcoming class, "Under the Seattle Sun...Drought Resistant Gardening Inspired by Tuscany." Most customers have now received their water bills that reflect peak summer use. This may be a good time to inspire them with a different type of garden that doesn't require excessive water. Marianne Binetti, Seattle P.I. gardening columnist, will present "Under the Seattle Sun..." on October 23, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH) in Seattle. Registration is \$15 through CUH's website, [www.urbanhort.org](http://www.urbanhort.org) or by calling them at (206) 685-8033.

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## **COMMERCIAL SPRAYHEAD PROGRAMS NEXT STEPS**

The Pre-rinse sprayhead program is winding down to a close. Over 3,000 heads have been installed in the SWP service areas. The next step is to utilize information gathered at the many participants' sites to do some additional marketing to encourage implementation of other water conservation measures such as replacing high flow fixtures and changing water-cooled ice machines.

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## HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS



In the month on November, the Resource Venture will be offering two workshops

specifically targeted to the hospitality industry. These workshops will cover from A to Z, opportunities for water conservation found in hotels, methods to evaluate water conservation

potential including life cycle analysis, and up to date information about incentive programs available to attendees.

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